

# Implementation needs a push, efficacy patchy

## SOCIAL SECTOR SCHEMES

Primary education as a fundamental right yet to be enforced, National Rural Health Mission wins applause

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The Economic Survey holds a mirror to social spending schemes. The spend on these may have doubled in the last four years but the efficacy leaves much to be desired.

The share of Central government expenditure on social services in total expenditure has increased from 11 per cent in 2001-02 to 16.4 per cent in 2007-08.

The survey calls for greater emphasis on governance. Better governance and improved service delivery is essential to ensure that leakages are plugged and funds reach the intended beneficiaries, it says. It cites the example of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to stress that the government should learn lessons from the experiences of the scheme to pre-

vent implementation failures.

The survey says the government has failed to enact a follow-up legislation envisaged in Article 21-A pending which the 86th Amendment making free and compulsory education for children between 6 and 14 years a fundamental right cannot be enforced.

The National Rural Health Mission has come in for special applause as an attempt to involve the community to make the system accountable. With the establishment of Village Health and Sanitation Committees, Hospital Development Committees and Panchayati Raj institution-led committees, it is the civil society to which the health system is being made increasingly accountable, the survey says.